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SOCIETAL TRENDS AND LEARNING NEEDS IN ONTARIO
An abridgment of
« Tendances de la société en Ontario francophone »

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SOCIETAL TRENDS AND LEARNING NEEDS IN ONTARIO

An abridgment of
« Tendances de la société en Ontario francophone »

— Translated by Kathleen Vaughan —

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April 1990

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La version complète de ce document de travail est disponible en français sous le titre de « Tendances de la société en Ontario francophone », document de travail 89-6. Ce document est également disponible dans sa forme abrégée sous le titre « Tendances de la société en Ontario francophone, Abrégé », document de travail 89-7. On peut obtenir des exemplaires de ces documents par l'entremise de :

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I. INTRODUCTION

This document is an **abridgment** and **adaptation** of *Tendances de la société en Ontario francophone,* prepared by Planning and Development Research to facilitate the planning process of French Programming Services of TVOntario. This English-language abridgment has been prepared as a planning tool for English Programming Services, as many of the societal trends of concern to Franco-Ontarians also affect Ontario as a whole and because bilingual Franco-Ontarians are among the audience for TVO's English-language educational programming.

In the original version, the societal trends that will have an impact on the evolution of francophone Ontario over the the next ten years, are presented in seven sections:

1. Demographic trends
2. Political trends
3. Economic trends and the labour market
4. Cultural trends
5. Educational trends
6. Societal trends and quality of life
7. Societal trends: the status of women

Each of these sections begins with the trends that will have an impact on all Ontarians, and then presents those with particular significance for the Franco-Ontarian community.

Each trend that is identified is followed by a discussion of:

- the **dynamics** of the trend, i.e., the societal forces that act positively or negatively on a given situation;

- the **problematics** of the trend, i.e., the difficulties related to a situation that can be interpreted as being challenges for the francophone community or possible spheres of intervention for programming.

Each section ends with the **implications for target groups**, i.e., the training and information needs that arise from the trends. In some cases, instruction is aimed at the target audience; in others, it is more appropriately targeted at learning facilitators, such as parents, educators, and community leaders.

This **abridgment** includes the list of societal trends identified in the original document and presents, for each trend, the implications for target audiences. Information related to these trends can be found in previous Planning and Development Research reports, such as *Labour Market Transition Project: Learning Needs, Target Groups, and Potential TVOntario Responses*, 1989; *Analysis of Existing Data on Ontario's Ethnocultural Population*, 1989; *Environmental Papers*, 1988; and *Trends and their Implications for Planning in Part-Time Learning*, 1986. In addition, the staff of PDR is available to elaborate on particular trends or to discuss the contents of the complete document.

We hope this **abridgment** will prove useful as a starting point for discussion and planning of EPS programming.

II. TRENDS AND LEARNING NEEDS

1. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

TREND		IMPLICATIONS FOR TARGET AUDIENCES *— Information and instruction needed in the following areas:*
TREND 1.	***The rate of international immigration is stable, but the changes in countries of origin of new immigrants will alter the ethnocultural composition of Ontario within the next 20 years.***	*ADULTS* • Interracial and interethnic relations • Myths and realities about immigrants • New pedagogical strategies for teaching or leading groups of multicultural make-up *YOUTH and CHILDREN* • Interracial and interethnic relations
TREND 2.	***The traditional structures of the family are undergoing significant upheaval, redefining both the life courses of adults and the environment of childhood.***	*ADULTS* • The challenges of single parent families • Divorce and its aftermath • The deinstitutionalization of marriage • New kinds of emotional relationships between the sexes and ways to keep a relationship healthy *YOUTH and CHILDREN* • Divorce and its effect on children • Life in a single parent family • The challenges of rebuilding family life around new kinds of family settings

TREND 3. ***Ontario's population is aging.***

TREND 4. ***Old age will be difficult for francophones, particularly those in rural and northern regions.***

ADULTS

- Preparing for retirement
- Prolonging active working life beyond the age of retirement
- Autonomy of the elderly and availability of support services
- Health and overmedication
- Poverty and support programs
- Isolation and loneliness among the elderly

YOUTH and CHILDREN

- Ties and conflicts between generations
- The importance of emotional support within families and of friendship with the elderly
- The social contribution of elders

TREND 5.	***Current demolinguistic trends are contributing significantly to the demographic decline of the francophone population as identified by language most often spoken in the home.***	*ADULTS* • Increasing rate of linguistic assimilation among important segments of the francophone population • Organizing institutional networks to sustain the use of the French language in communities • The assimilation of parents and the resulting decrease in the passing on of cultural heritage from one generation to the next *YOUTH* • The meaning of being Franco-Ontarian • Youth mobility, their migration to large urban centres, and cultural and linguistic assimilation • Solutions to the problem of youth departure from distant regions to the prosperous centers and loss of human resources and expertise for these already disadvantaged regions *CHILDREN* • Organizing French language preschool services • Mechanisms of additive bilingualism: learning English while maintaining one's mother tongue
TREND 6.	***Migration within the province (exodus of youth to the economic centres of Ontario) and the resulting geographic redistribution of francophones increase the likelihood that Franco-Ontarians will undergo cultural and linguistic assimilation.***	*ADULTS* • Organizing institutional networks to sustain the use of the French language in communities • The challenges of educating children in French • The economic revitalization of northern Ontario communities

TREND 7.

The demolinguistic trends listed above mean that the existence of a new generation of dynamic and committed francophone youth is far from assured.

ADULTS

- Organizing institutional networks to sustain the use of the French language in communities

YOUTH

- Fighting assimilation while studying and working in English
- Cultural activities in secondary schools
- Involvement of youth in rejuvenating francophone communities

CHILDREN

- Organizing French language preschool services
- The role of the family as a socializing agent in passing on a cultural heritage to the next generation

2. POLITICAL TRENDS

TREND		IMPLICATIONS FOR TARGET AUDIENCES *— Information and instruction needed in the following areas:*
TREND 1.	***Canada's economic growth depends upon the mustering of a new political and economic will to support the development of competitive technology. Investment in research and development (R&D) and in professional training will be key elements of a successful industrial strategy.***	*ADULTS* • The creation of a training culture in Ontario • New industrial relations in the workplace • The role of the state in industrial strategy in Canada and in countries of the OECD
TREND 2.	***All levels of government will increasingly tend towards fiscal responsibility and deficit reduction.***	*ADULTS* • The consequences of the deficit for the Canadian economy and its impact on individuals and communities
TREND 3.	***Cooperative efforts and partnerships are increasingly being developed between governments, the private sector, and the labor movement, to identify solutions to common challenges.***	*ADULTS* • Corporatism and partnerships • The history of the labour movement and its political role in today's society

TREND 4.	***The concentration of ownership within the media and communications industries is increasing: it is predicted that by the year 2000 approximately ten corporations will own and operate all major media around the world.***	*ADULTS* • Media empires and their influence on the communication of news and information • Media literacy and critical viewing skills • Building alternative media sources *YOUTH* • Media literacy and critical viewing skills • Building alternative media sources
TREND 5.	***The debate will continue between the proponents of the integration of minorities within the institutions of the majority and the advocates of autonomous institutions.***	*ADULTS* • Bilingualism, biculturalism, and multiculturalism • The debate on the integration of minorities versus the creation of parallel and autonomous systems of services in the Franco-Ontarian community
TREND 6.	***The French Language Services Act (Bill 8, now enacted, which requires that provincially governed or funded services be provided in French in designated areas of Ontario, where francophone concentration warrants it) must be perceived as a means and not as an end in itself. Francophones must develop the political will to promote and ensure the participation of all in requesting to be served in French.***	*ADULTS* • The meaning of the French Language Services Act in one's daily life • Judicial recourse • Municipalities and the French Language Services Act • The private sector and the use of French in the workplace • The francophobic phenomenon *YOUTH* • The meaning of the French Language Services Act in one's daily life • The francophobic phenomenon • The pride of speaking French • Job opportunities brought about by the Act

TREND 7.	***The Meech Lake Accord triggers conflicts between French speaking Canadians, even though the preservation of their cultural heritage and identity requires unity and solidarity.***	*ADULTS* • The stakes of the Meech Lake Accord • Francophones across Canada and minority rights • Quebec and the Meech Lake Accord • Linguistic tensions in Canada *YOUTH* • Francophones across Canada and minority rights
TREND 8.	***Since the mid-1980s, a favourable political conjuncture has developed which has been beneficial to the demands of the Franco-Ontarian community.***	*ADULTS* • The history of the Franco-Ontarian community's fight for its rights • The techniques of lobbying, organization, and popular mobilization • The provincial political process *YOUTH* • The history of the Franco-Ontarian community's fight for its rights
TREND 9.	***One of the problems that may afflict the Franco-Ontarian community is the development of internal conflicts caused by the emergence of important differences, including those of region, religion, economic status, generation, and political allegiance. These conflicts could disrupt the development of a common political agenda.***	*ADULTS* • Political trends within the Franco-Ontarian community • Multiple sources of tensions and conflicting political agendas • The new realities of the Franco-Ontarian community

3. ECONOMIC TRENDS AND THE LABOUR MARKET

TREND		IMPLICATIONS FOR TARGET AUDIENCES *— Information and instruction needed in the following areas:*
TREND 1.	***Increasing competition on international markets presents important challenges for Canadian business.***	*ADULTS* • Starting a business • International competition: foreign cultures and languages • Creating and marketing innovative products • New industrial relations in the workplace • Implications of the free trade agreement
TREND 2.	***Regional inequities will increase, as will the vulnerability of single industry communities.***	*ADULTS* • The strategies of economic diversification and community development • Responses to regional unemployment • Training and retraining programs *YOUTH* • The opportunities for youth in single industry towns — training programs and possibilities for participation in the economic diversification of their region

TREND 3.	***In recent years, a shift in the economic importance from the manufacturing and natural resources sectors in favor of the service and information-based sectors has been observed.***	*ADULTS* • Trends and the transition in the labour market • Temporary and part-time work • Job search techniques • Continuing education • Time management to combine work, education, family, and leisure • Training and retraining programs • Parental involvement in their children's education *YOUTH* • The prerequisites of the jobs of the future • The consequences of leaving school • Available training programs • The advantages and disadvantages of working while studying • Job search techniques • Youth services for labour market entry *CHILDREN* • An introduction to the world of work • Basic skills, flexibility and multidisciplinarity
TREND 4.	***Jobless growth is a continuing and accelerating phenomenon. Temporary and part-time work are on the increase.***	
TREND 5.	***A polarization and fragmentation of the workforce can be observed.***	
TREND 6.	***The level of skills required for new labour market entrants is rising. Finding a stable and well-paying job requires more formal training than in the past.***	
TREND 7.	***The workforce is aging and the number of workers entering the job market for the first time is shrinking.***	*ADULTS* • Training and retraining programs • Maintaining an active life after age 65 • Debates about lifelong learning

TREND 8.	***Because of their geographic distribution, 80 percent of Ontario's francophones live in economically weak regions. Franco-Ontarians risk being penalized if their education, level of skills, and mobility are not adequate.***	*ADULTS* • Distance education programs • The difficult choice of geographic mobility • Strategies of community economic development • Individual and community responses to unemployment
TREND 9.	***The undereducation of francophones contributes to their marginalization in low-paying service sector jobs, unemployment, or underemployment in the manufacturing and resource-based sectors.***	*ADULTS* • Popular literacy programs • Continuing education programs • The challenges of returning to school *YOUTH* • Transition to postsecondary education • Addressing the dropout problem *CHILDREN* • The importance of loving to learn
TREND 10.	***Economic inequity within Franco-Ontarian society will grow: undereducation and disparities in regional economic development will increasingly fragment the francophone workforce.***	*ADULTS and YOUTH* • The new regional realities of francophone Ontario

TREND 11. ***French-speaking business associations are working to create the springboards necessary to francophones' economic success.***

ADULTS

- Francophone entrepreneurship in Ontario
- Resources available to establish a business

YOUTH

- Programs to assist young entrepreneurs

4. CULTURAL TRENDS

TREND		IMPLICATIONS FOR TARGET AUDIENCES *— Information and instruction needed in the following areas:*
TREND 1.	***Cultural industries are in full expansion.***	*ADULTS* • The cultural sovereignty debate • Cultural and recreational activities available in Ontario, by region • The politics of multiculturalism *YOUTH* • Youth associations and cultural centres • Exploring and developing one's talents • The Canadian art world *CHILDREN* • Exploring and developing one's talents
TREND 2.	***The issue of cultural sovereignty with respect to the United States is maintaining its urgency even though it is no longer news.***	
TREND 3.	***The increase in the average household income, the aging of the population, and the increase in the average level of education will contribute to a reallocation of time to recreational, personal, educational, and cultural activities.***	
TREND 4.	***Our materialistic consumer society propagates values that are counter to the interests of the young. In fact, the young are considered as a group of consumers and not as the generation of the future.***	*ADULTS* • The myths and realities of contemporary youth • Generational conflicts and their resolution • The debates about the influence of television and advertising on young people *YOUTH* • Ontario youth by region • Media literacy and critical viewing skills • The difficulties of entering the "adult world" *CHILDREN* • Media literacy and critical viewing skills

TREND 5. ***Francophone cultural industries in Ontario are expanding, but the marketing of francophone creations and services, as well as competition with anglophone products, remain problematic.***

ADULTS
- The promotion of francophone cultural products
- The means of production and promotion of Franco-Ontarian culture

YOUTH
- The challenge of discovering and creating a contemporary francophone culture
- Young Franco-Ontarian artists

CHILDREN
- Franco-Ontarian cultural heritage through stories, legends, and songs

TREND 6. ***The modernization of Franco-Ontarian society seems to be promoting integration with the majority's culture and practices: the fabric of Franco-Ontarian society is being fissured in this crisis of ethnic socialization.***

ADULTS
- Organizing institutional network to sustain the use of the French language in communities
- The mechanisms of ethnic socialization

YOUTH
- The meaning of being Franco-Ontarian
- Cultural activities in the schools

CHILDREN
- The meaning of "culture"

TREND 7.	***New values are emerging: a decline of interest in religion, folklore, and political and ethnic involvement coincides with a growth in the values of the information society, of self-realization, materialism and individualism.***	*ADULTS* • The trends of the society of the future • The new generation of Franco-Ontarians • The conflicts between traditional allegiances and new social movements *YOUTH* • The new values of the youth • The information society and new technologies
TREND 8.	***New technologies will change social networking but may not improve the social status of Franco-Ontarians. The challenge to the minority will be to retain its cultural identity — fostered through community and regional involvement — while participating in global economic and political systems.***	*ADULTS* • The influence of new technologies on social, economic, and political life • Electronic networking • Preserving minority cultures • The debate on integration and cultural isolation
TREND 9.	***French language multiculturalism holds possibilities for growing cultural enrichment. As a result, some people are diverted from the task of preserving the traditional aspects of their cultural heritage by working to create a contemporary "transcultural" francophone culture.***	*ADULTS* • Relationships between francophones of multicultural origins and the Franco-Ontarian community • Interracial and interethnic relations • New pedagogical strategies for teaching in classes of multicultural make-up *YOUTH and CHILDREN* • Interracial and interethnic relationships

5. EDUCATIONAL TRENDS

TREND		IMPLICATIONS FOR TARGET AUDIENCES *— Information and instruction needed in the following areas:*
TREND 1.	***Distance education opportunities will increase as a result of the growing number of institutions offering courses and of the availability of new technologies.***	*ADULTS, YOUTH, and CHILDREN* • The characteristics of distance education • Course offerings through distance education • The techniques and modes of learning in a multimedia environment • The development of media skills
TREND 2.	***Technological changes and the evolution of the structure of work will have important repercussions on the kinds of skills necessary and will require a higher level of formal schooling.***	*ADULTS* • Continuing education • Retraining programs • Basic skills (reading, writing, numeracy) training *YOUTH* • Tracking down and preventing drop outs • Attitudes to schooling and learning • Programs available in French in Ontario *CHILDREN* • School as an adventure • The importance of family support for children's education

TREND 3.	***The rate of illiteracy among Franco-Ontarians may grow if governments and social agencies do not recognize the problem and work together to eliminate it.***	*ADULTS* • On-the-job literacy training • Recruiting illiterates in literacy programs • Training literacy teachers • Literacy campaigns here and elsewhere *YOUTH* • Causes and possible solutions to secondary school level illiteracy *CHILDREN* • The pleasure of reading • The pleasure of writing and inventing stories
TREND 4.	***Immersion programs are increasing in popularity and contributing to the growth of bilingualism.***	*ADULTS* • The debates about linguistically mixed schools • Franco-Ontarian culture for the newly bilingual *YOUTH and CHILDREN* • The advantages and disadvantages of immersion programs • Franco-Ontarian culture • The modernity of the French language and mechanisms of additive bilingualism: learning English while maintaining one's mother tongue
TREND 5.	***Bill 75, passed in July 1986, gives francophones the right to manage and be involved in the education of their children to a degree unparalleled in any other sphere of activity of comparable influence on linguistic and cultural development.***	*ADULTS* • Bill 75 and its implications • The systems of school management • School boards and community involvement in their management

TREND 6. ***The debate will continue on linguistically mixed versus homogeneous schools.***

ADULTS
- The debate about linguistically mixed schools

YOUTH and CHILDREN
- Linguistically mixed schools and the conflicts between the two linguistic groups
- Mechanisms of additive bilingualism: learning English while maintaining one's mother tongue

TREND 7. ***The creation of additional French language postsecondary educational opportunities will remain a priority for an important number of Franco-Ontarian organizations, since the establishment of la Cité collégiale (the first francophone College of Applied Arts and Technology) responds only partially to the needs of francophones.***

ADULTS
- The challenges of postsecondary education
- The possibility of a francophone university
- The mandate of francophone colleges

TREND 8. ***The tendency to undereducation will continue if young Franco-Ontarians do not continue their studies at the postsecondary level.***

YOUTH
- The challenges of the "Éduc-Action" program
- Identifying potential dropouts
- Attitudes towards school and the importance of family support
- The intrinsic and extrincic rewards of studying

6. SOCIETAL TRENDS AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE

TREND		IMPLICATIONS FOR TARGET AUDIENCES *— Information and instruction needed in the following areas:*
TREND 1.	***Technological change will have a significant impact on the delivery of social services in Ontario.***	*ADULTS, YOUTH, and CHILDREN* • Effective use of technology • Intelligent technological systems and social services • Integrating the now marginalized disabled
TREND 2.	***Despite the province's relative prosperity, a significant number of Ontarians are living below the poverty line.***	*ADULTS* • The myths and realities of poverty in Ontario • The victims of poverty • Social, community, and individual action to eliminate poverty • Following a budget on a low income and making ends meet *YOUTH and CHILDREN* • The child victims of poverty • The realities of poverty and its impact on school children
TREND 3.	***Environmental issues will continue to be of concern at a time when a number of new technologies and new recyclable products are being developed.***	*ADULTS* • The impact of industrial society on nature • Environmental protection agencies • Recyclable products *YOUTH and CHILDREN* • Environmental issues • The ways of organizing a recycling project within a school or community

TREND 4. ***Numerous experts predict that within two years, Canadian cities will become centres of drug traffic if no steps are taken to counter current trends.***

ADULTS
- The extent of the drug problem in Ontario
- The battle against drug trafficking
- Discovering drug use in children and helping them

YOUTH and CHILDREN
- Training anti-drug use educators

TREND 5. ***Individuals are increasingly participating in the maintenance of their own well-being, approaching physical and mental health from a preventive standpoint.***

ADULTS
- Alternative medicines
- Stress
- Health on the job
- Nutrition and physical fitness

YOUTH and CHILDREN
- The harmful effects of alcohol and tobacco
- Sexuality

TREND 6. ***A significant number of social and health programs, subsidized in large part by the government of Ontario, are administered either by local governments or by semiautonomous municipal organizations. Bill 8 does not require that these services be available in French.***

TREND 7. ***Municipal health services are more likely to be available in French than social services.***

TREND 8. ***If no solutions are found to remedy the lack of health and social service professionals willing to work in the designated areas of the province, all discussions on the extension — or even on the application — of the French Language Services Act will remain theoretical.***

TREND 9. ***If the trend toward linguistic assimilation of francophones is indeed considered a serious threat, access to French language daycare services will become essential.***

ADULTS

- The French Language Services Act and social and community services
- Municipal politics
- The shortage of health, social, and community service professionals and possible solutions
- Organizing institutional networks to sustain the use of the French language in communities
- French language postsecondary programs in the health and social service sectors
- French language services in distant regions
- French language immersion programs for qualified English speaking professionals
- Organizing francophone daycare services in private homes

7. SOCIETAL TRENDS: THE STATUS OF WOMEN

TREND		IMPLICATIONS FOR TARGET AUDIENCES *— Information and instruction needed in the following areas:*
TREND 1.	***The feminist movement and the growing participation of women in the workforce and in all aspects of social life are resulting in a rather slow redefinition of sex roles and of the status of women in society.***	*ADULTS* • Nonsexist education and the sharing of tasks at home • The myths and realities of women's participation in the workforce • The pink collar ghetto and programs for training and retraining women *YOUTH and CHILDREN* • Feminist issues • Nonsexist education • Nontraditional career choices for women
TREND 2.	***The new pay equity legislation requires the reevaluation of women's work, a process that raises questions about our traditional system of values.***	*ADULTS* • The new pay equity law • The rights acquired and the battles to come in the area of women and work *YOUTH and CHILDREN* • Sexual prejudice and the social realities of women's contributions to the world of work

TREND 3.	***Until recently, the extent of domestic violence and spousal abuse has been little known. Studies have now revealed the extent and seriousness of the problem.***	*ADULTS* • The causes, visible signs, and prevention of domestic violence and spousal abuse • The resources and assistance programs available to victims *YOUTH and CHILDREN* • Domestic violence and children
TREND 4.	***Single parenting is a more and more widespread phenomenon — a symptom of the questioning of traditional values and, above all, of women's roles in relationships, in families, and in society.***	*ADULTS* • The judicial aspects of the family and government support programs • Managing a family budget and achieving financial autonomy • Stress and overwork among single working mothers *YOUTH and CHILDREN* • Stereotypes of the family and its new realities • Raising teachers' awareness to the needs of children of single parent families
TREND 5.	***Franco-Ontarian women are changing the way they participate in society: they are now less oriented towards serving others and more involved in organizations concerned with the specific conditions of francophone women in society.***	*ADULTS* • Volunteerism and the contribution of women • Political and community involvement and the participation of women • Recognition of the rights now acquired by and the challenges still to come for Franco-Ontarian women.